

NORTH AXHOLME SCHOOL

SUMMER

NEWSLETTER 07



ACTIVITIES



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our summer newsletter. As ever, the following pages will give you a taste of all the great work that is going on at North Axholme.

Perhaps the biggest event of the year has just ended, as I type this introduction, and that is our Ofsted inspection that took place on Wednesday and Thursday 4th and 5th July. When schools are inspected these days they are given only a few days notice. The inspection takes two days and the report is published in about three weeks. We welcomed one of Her Majesties Inspector of Schools (HMI) Susan Bowles and two other inspectors, Akram Khan-Cheema and Roberta Mothersdale.

During an incredibly packed two days they observed lessons and interviewed the leadership team and many other staff on a wide range of topics. They talked with 25 pupils in structured interviews and many more as they moved around school. They looked at hundreds of school books and analysed the many parent questionnaires that were returned. They also spoke to a group of governors. They visited an assembly, form periods, looked around at our display, watched our pupils during breaks and lunchtime and attended some extra curricular activities.

The inspectors were really positive and very thorough throughout, as you would expect of highly trained and experienced professionals. At the end of the inspection we were provided with verbal feedback under a range of headings. This will then be written into a final report that will be published within a few weeks. This could be by the time you receive this newsletter at the end of term. Until then, the contents are confidential as the report goes through a quality control process at Ofsted. What I can share with you, however, is that the inspectors

found a school that is hugely different from that last inspected in March 2003. They acknowledged that we have come a very long way in that time. They told us that we self evaluate very well, we know where we are and are good at planning future improvements. They were very impressed with our pupils in terms of their behaviour and attitudes. They described the school as friendly and effective. All of this makes us tremendously optimistic about the future development of the school.

When we learnt that we were about to be inspected I held assemblies to tell our pupils about what would be happening. I said that we should work as a team to show the inspectors just how good a school we are. I am so proud that they did just that. They were fantastic, open, friendly, hard working young people. They were themselves. My colleagues in school, governors and you our parents through the questionnaire also showed the inspectors the progress we are making. I thank you all for working in partnership with us to achieve this progress and look forward to building upon the recommendations that will appear in the report to make us even better.

If the report is not available for publication before we close for the summer I will endeavour to let you know when we will be able to go ahead as soon as possible. When it is published you will be able to find it at <http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/> where you will also find our new School Profile or <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and safe summer break.

Joe Sellars
Headteacher

BUSA Finals 2007 Twickenham 24.5.07

The P.E. Department ran their annual trip to the British Universities Rugby Union finals at Twickenham in May and again it proved to be an excellent experience for the pupils.

The first final was the women's final between University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) and Loughborough University which saw UWIC run out comfortable winners.

The men's final was a much closer contest which saw the 2005 runners up UWE Hartpury take on UWIC.

Hartpury, the agricultural college from Gloucester backed by a very large crowd (and North Axholme School) were the eventual winners, but the result could have been very different if UWIC hadn't had their captain dismissed after 10 minutes and also converted a series of missed kicks.

All in all it was an excellent day which allowed the pupils to see Rugby being played to a very high standard and also gave them an insight into University Life.

Mr R Sennett.

Volunteers for Spain

The University of Castille-La Mancha (in Albacete) has requested a copy of the pupils booklet 'Jarama 1937'. This booklet, which was about the first battle that the British volunteers fought in during the Spanish Civil War, contains interviews with surviving brigaders, eye witnesses and historians. The University wants a copy of the booklet for their archive of International Brigade material. In return the University has sent the school a book they have produced on the Brigades.

A group of Spanish Teachers have seen the booklet and interested in developing ties with the group.

In September the Volunteers for Spain will start up again, looking to research the events of 1938.

"Much Ado About Nothing"

The Shooting Fish Theatre Company performed the two set scenes from "Much Ado About Nothing" to Year 9 just before SAT's, along with a workshop. The experience was educational, enjoyable and creative.

Mr Walton.

ART EXHIBITION

This year's exhibition featured the work of all Year 11 GCSE Applied Art & Design Students. It included a wide range of work in a variety of different media.

All 23 students had either coursework, exam pieces or both on display.

Mrs O'Horan



Peer Mentors

A Big thank you for the hard work the Peer Mentors have achieved this year. They started their training in September. This allowed them to work with Year 7's in Registration, help with homework and Paired Reading with Mrs Taylor. They had extra training with Perry Smith from the Autistic Department. This was very interesting.

WHAT A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!

Welcome to the new Peer Mentors, we are sure they will build on Year 10's experience. Looking forward to working with you all.

Mrs B Smith & Miss J Mann

Charlie & The Chocolate Factory

Year 7 & 8 pupils will be going on a trip to the Plowright Theatre on Wednesday 18th July, in the evening, to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It will be exciting and entertaining and will give the pupils the opportunity to watch a stage performance which differs immensely from a film. It will, hopefully bring the book to life. We look forward to it.

Miss Walters.

Applied Business Studies already have a visit planned in September for Year 11 pupils to experience manufacture and distribution at Coca Cola in Wakefield.

The aspiring Year 10 pupils are already entered in the Coca Cola challenge, in October, when they will be competing in a business situation with other schools from the area. We wish them luck and hope they do well!

Mrs Selway

Enterprise Events

Over the last term all students at North Axholme have been involved in 'off timetable' events aimed at promoting various enterprise skills.

- Y11 Developing teambuilding skills with a range of practical problem solving activities organised and ran by the Territorial Army.
- Y10 Working in small teams on 'Time Limited' bridge building event with design presentations.
- Y9 Enterprise day –range of tasks involving, improving innovation , problem solving and motivating skills.
- Y8 Half day event 'Enterprise Game' a challenging board game run as 'companies' with a variety of challenges thrown in - a fun way of showing real life problems.
- Y7 Introduction to enterprise activities with team building and problem solving activities and then presentation to the group.

Mr Bartley.

School Uniform

An attractive coat, with the School Logo, has been introduced as part of the uniform from September. I hope you will encourage your child/children to use this fleece lined, reversible, shower proof jacket as winter approaches. We would like to move to a point where this coat is worn by all pupils.

All uniform is available throughout the year from the school shop.
Mrs Selway.

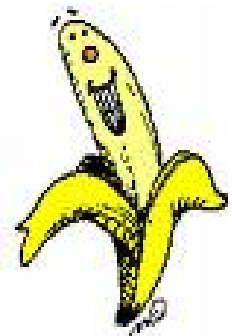
Lincolnshire Show Schools Challenge

Year 8 entered the Lincolnshire Show Schools Challenge as part of their Citizenship Curriculum. The Whole Year Group worked on the initial research then a small group brought it together and produced a presentation which they gave to the judges at the show. This is the feedback from the judges:

Excellent well presented research using a variety of primary and desk based resources, well thought through and planned. Video clips of interviews were used to good effect. Clearly understood all aspects of the challenge and linked the issues of health and exercise, to balanced diet, locally produced food and the environment. Excellent use of IT and worked well as a team in the project and presentation. Good use of charts and display material. Understood many related areas like food hygiene and nutrition. A very close second in secondary schools group.

The pupils in the final group were

Adam Ingleton
Chloe Lee
Allestina Ho
Alex Crow
Eden Murphy
Levi Mallett



WELL DONE!!

Year 10 & 11 Calendar Dates

Monday 2nd July– Y10 Taster Day at North Lindsey College.

Tuesday 3rd July– Y10 Taster Day at John Leggott College

Friday 4th May-Year 11 Prom at Castle Park, Doncaster

Everybody made a real effort. It was a great evening enjoyed by pupils and staff. Thanks again to Mrs Dalowsky and Mrs Gwyther for organising the event.

Wednesday 4th July –Prefect Interviews

All Year 10 pupils had the valuable experience of an interview after writing a letter and a C.V. to apply for the position of Prefect in Year 11. Four people from Connexions, a person who works for the F.A. and the Head and Deputy Head Boy came into school to carry out the interviews. The Interviewers were impressed by the level of maturity that our pupils showed during their interviews.

Friday 6th July-Y10 Coursework

A large number of pupils attended the day, some voluntary, to catch up with coursework. Lots of pupils are now up-to-date with their work, those who are not will be seen in September.

Monday 9th July to Friday 14th July - Year 10 Work Experience.

Friday 13th July– Reward Trip to see Harry Potter for Years 7 & 8.

Wed 18th July– Reward Trip to see Harry Potter for Years 9 & 10.

MRS ALLEN

SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parents,

Online payments for school meals

I am very pleased to inform you that we will be able to offer online payment as an option for school meals in your school from Friday 25th May, 2007. Please follow the link from our web pages at:

www.northlincs.gov.uk/schoolmeals

How does it work?

North Lincolnshire Council offers online payments, using a 24 hour secure internet payment service. You may make payment using most major debit or credit cards. You can do this at your own leisure. The amount added will then be available to your child on their cashless account in school. Credit received before 10.30am may be used at lunchtime on the same day.

Other payment methods are:

- **BY TELEPHONE** – Payments can be taken by debit/ credit cards. Cards accepted are visa, master card and switch (now maestro). Telephone line 01724 297907 is open 8 – 10.30am and 2 – 4pm Mon – Fri. Credit received before 10.30am may be used at lunchtime on the same day. Credit received after 10.30am may be used on the next school day.
- **BY CASH** – Cash can be put into the revaluer machines, sited in school. It is recommended that students put cash in the revaluer as soon as possible, to lessen the chance of them losing their money.
- **BY CHEQUE** – Cheque boxes have been installed in school for students to post cheques into. Cheques put into these boxes by 10.30 am will be credited to accounts and available to spend on the same day. ANY CHEQUES PLACED IN THE BOXES AFTER 10.30 am WILL NOT BE CREDITED FOR THAT DAY. Cheques only should be placed in this box. Cheques should be made payable to **North Lincolnshire Council**.

Please note that all payments made online, or by telephone must be received by 10.30am for your child to be able to use the funds on the same day. Any payments received after this time will be available on the next school day.

SCHOOL MEALS PRICE INCREASE-SEPTEMBER 2007

AS FROM SEPTEMBER 2007 PRICES CHARGED FOR MEALS IN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS WILL INCREASE BY 5p IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE ALLOWANCE FOR A PUPIL ENTITLED TO A FREE MEAL WILL BE £1.90.

Year 7 French Café

Year 7 were invited to a French breakfast with waiter/waitress service provided by Year 9 pupils to mark the French national holiday (4th July).

PGL Trip to Caythorpe

A number of students are participating in a PGL activity weekend at Caythorpe Court. The girls are undertaking a reward trip for participation in extra curricular activities. The activities are different from those undertaken at school and will enable the girls to test their levels of team work, solve problems and hopefully get over their fear of heights!

Mrs Dalowsky

CONNEXIONS

A Connexions Careers P.A. is in school every Wednesday. If you would like to see her please see Mr Bartley, Mrs Allen or Mrs Price who will make an appointment for you.

Mrs Allen

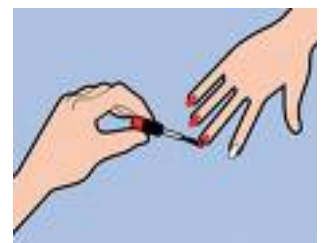
PTFA

The PTFA have shown great enthusiasm and enterprise in raising funds to benefit the school.

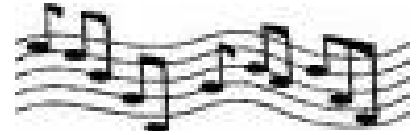
Many new Parents have joined the Association and the new committee have organised several successful events such as the 'Ladies Evening'.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to these events and we look forward to your continued support.

Mr Clayton



MUSIC



Class Act Excitement

A large crowd gathered in the music room as we held our own talent show to decide which two acts would represent North Axholme School in the prestigious Scunthorpe Telegraph event held at the Wortley House Hotel. It was finally decided that Stacey Whitham (Y8) and Amber Dring-Hill (Y10) would sing for the school. Both pupils represented the school well and Stacey Whitham was chosen to take part in the grand final. Although not placed, it was an excellent experience. Well done to both girls.

Music Festival

Once again North Axholme was well represented in this Scunthorpe event and many first and second placings were achieved (see below). Special mention must go to Laurenne Lethbridge (flute) and Tom Fagg (euphonium) who both won through to the Bursary Class on the Saturday evening. Many congratulations to all who took part.

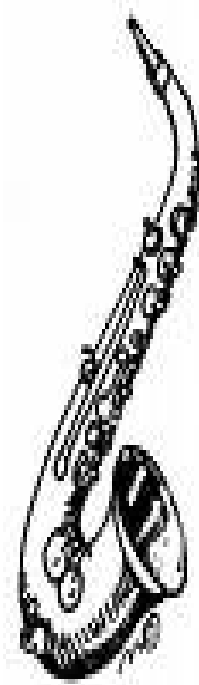
MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

Ensemble for Brass	1st North Axholme Brass Ensemble
School Wind Band	1st North Axholme Senior Wind Band
Ensemble for Woodwind	2nd North Axholme Flute Trio
Brass Solo 12 yrs and under	1st Max Vollans 2nd George Humphrey
Brass Solo 13 to 15 yrs	1st Tom Fagg 2nd Richard Metcalfe 3rd Jason Jones

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Grace Wye
Charlie Moore
Michael James
Abigail Buckman

Woodwind Duet Open	2nd Jeanna & Charlotte Chisnell
Saxophone Solo 15yrs and under	1st Daisy Vollans
Saxophone Solo 13yrs and under	1st Charlotte Chisnell
Woodwind Solo 12 yrs and under	1st Laurenne Lethbridge
Woodwind Solo 13 to 15 yrs	1st Jeanna Chisnell 2nd Rebecca Oxborrow 3rd Olivia Brennan



TROPHY WINNERS

The Festival Trophy	School Senior Wind Band
The Clark Cup	Max Vollans
The Goodacre Cup	Tom Fagg
The Elsam Trophy	Jeanna Chisnell

BURSARY FINALISTS

Tom Fagg/Laurenne Lethbridge

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

A large number of our musicians are taking part in practical examinations on Monday 16th July and Tuesday 17th July. We look forward to some excellent results which will be issued in September.

Mrs Keeler.

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Day and Inter-schools Athletics

Unfortunately due to the poor weather and flooding at Quibell Park both interform sports and inter-schools athletics have been cancelled. All Students at KS3 have been working very hard in lessons in order to represent the school in all Athletic areas. This has not gone unnoticed and hopefully a 'winter' sports day will take place next half-term.

Girls Cricket

A number of girls have participated in a new cricket club for girls. They have developed their batting and bowling skills. To finish the season they took part in a match against another school which they won by 4 runs.



Triathlon

A number of Year 7 and Year 8 students were given the opportunity to participate in a local triathlon held in Epworth, sponsored by Corus. The Triathlon is a multi activity event consisting of 50m swim, 800m bike ride and 800m run; (without a break). The idea was to encourage children to try a new event in order to generate more interest in a minority sport.

The event was very successful, however over very quickly! Well Done to all participants.

Rounders

Year 11 rounders team completed their final year at North Axholme as district rounders champions.

Years 10's missed out on a place in the semi finals due to rounders difference.

Year 9's finished 4 in their league in the district tournament.

Years 7 & 8 have yet to be played due to poor weather.

Mrs Dalowsky



ATTENDANCE

As ever we ask our existing and new parents for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends school regularly. If your children are genuinely too ill to attend and need to be kept at home, please remember to notify the office as early as possible on the first day of absence. The school now has a twenty-four hour answering service so messages regarding absences can be left at any time.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM-TIME

With regard to holidays taken during term-time, we would like to inform you that from 1st September 2007, North Axholme and our Primary School Cluster will be implementing changes in the Government guidelines for all local education authorities and schools.

Key points are:

- Only **one** holiday period of up to 10 days maximum per academic year (beginning September to end July) may be granted under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Head Teacher.
- Holidays will not be authorised in the weeks preceding and during National Curriculum tests and examinations such as GCSEs.
- The holiday must be requested **at least** 2 weeks in advance.
- Your child's attendance must be over 95% for the previous 12 months. We will refer to the previous academic year's attendance figure if the holiday request is made during the Autumn Term).
- If holidays have previously been granted some time in advance and the pupil's attendance has dropped below 95%, permission for the holiday may be revoked and therefore the absences will be unauthorised, leading to Education Welfare involvement and possible Penalty Notices/Fines.

All of the new rules regarding holidays are printed on our Holiday Forms and an Education Welfare leaflet giving further information about booking holidays during term-time is available from School.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS YEAR EIGHT PUPILS HAVE TAKEN UNAUTHORISED HOLIDAYS, RESULTING IN PROSECUTIONS/FINES FOR 14 PARENTS.

Torbole 2007

Mr Walton led a group of 40 Year 9, 10 & 11 students on six day tour of Northern Italy. We arrived at the Hotel in Torbole, at the foothills of the Dolomites in Lake Garda, after a very long journey.

On Saturday we went on a guided tour of the Lake from Malcesine. Here Mr Walton showed his dancing and singing skills with an excellent renditions of "Rock the Boat". The "Boom Boom let me hear you say "Whale" song was born. The afternoon was for many the highlight (physically and metaphorically) of the trip. A twin cable car ascent up to Monte Baldo, some 9000 foot above sea level. The snow was incredible and Bradley Stocks attempted a record snowball - there is a picture on display outside the staffroom. Sunday saw a full day excursion to Venice. The bus dropped us at the Tronchetta, where a Vaporetti took us to the city centre. Here pupils went sight-seeing and shopping. The weather was good. Mr Walton treated Mrs Price to a birthday meal in a Turkish Restaurant!

On Monday, in really hot weather, the students were taken to Gardaland, Italy's premier theme park. The park was great: good food and no queues for great rides.

The final day took in Verona: a bargain Euro admission to the Roman Colosseum and a visit to the famous balcony. Staff left comments of graffiti; for their loved ones. Mrs Price waved from the balcony ; structural work is now being carried out.

We returned to England on Thursday; Ruby was ecstatic to be back on British soil. The pupils and staff had an excellent time. Many thanks to Mr Sennett, Miss Collins, Miss Young and Mrs Price for their support.

Mr Walton

Year 11 ALAN and ECDL Success

During recent months year 11 students have been working hard to pass a range of on screen tests in school. Building on the success of last year, 55 students passed their European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) tests which has earned them the equivalent of a GCSE grade B.

In addition to ECDL, year 11 students also sat two Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALAN) tests for the first time. Of the 74 students that sat the onscreen tests at Level 2 (GCSE grade B equivalent), 68 (92%) of the group passed the Literacy test and 66 (89%) passed Numeracy. In total 64 students passed both tests earning them another GCSE equivalent.

Well done to all students involved. A number of students missed out on the pass mark first time round, but managed to hold their composure to retake and get the right result. They have been a real credit to the school.

Mr Creasy

Year 8 & 9 Calendar Dates

Oxford University Visit

Three of our Year 9 pupils were chosen to go on a Taster Day to Oxford University with students from other Secondary Schools. This provided a wonderful insight into life at a top University.

Hull University Visit

54 pupils from Year 9 enjoyed an excellent Taster Day in Hull as part of our Aim Higher Scheme. They took part in workshops and had a tour around the University.

Aim Higher in Year 8

60 pupils enjoyed a workshop given by Connexions to raise aspirations for further education. This was enjoyed by all and gave a valuable insight into why it is important to aim as high as possible.

Mrs Keeler

TERM DATES

2007 - 2008

School Closes	Friday 20th July 07
School Re-opens	Wednesday 5th September 07
School Closes	Friday 19th October 07
School Re-opens	Monday 29th October 07
School Closes	Friday 21st December 07
School Re-opens	Tuesday 8th January 08
School Closes	Friday 15th February 08
School Re-opens	Monday 25th February 08
GOOD FRIDAY	March 21st 08
EASTER MONDAY	March 24th 08
School Closes	Friday 4th April 08
School Re-opens	Tuesday 22nd April 08
MAY DAY	5th May 08
School Closes	Friday 23rd May 08
School Re-opens	Monday 2nd June 08
School Closes	Tuesday 22nd July 08

SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.northax.net

We are very pleased to announce that the school has a new website that has gone online this month, the web address is www.northax.net

This has been a big project for the school with all the staff being involved (thank you very much to everybody) with the pupils playing an active part next year being responsible for maintaining the school news section.

Here are some of the features of the new website.

First at all, when you open the website you can find an introduction about the school written by Mr. Sellars plus school news headlines and links with relevant information about the school. Also, you have all the menus to navigate through the website.

Main menu (top)

Calendar and events: You can check school activities, trips, exams...etc also the school term times.

Library: The library will be online during the 2007-2008 school year so you will be able to check all our books from in school or your computer at home. This will be possible because we are working to integrate the library in our network system. What does this mean?. It means that everybody in the school will be able to check which books we have free to lend using any computer and we will control all the borrowing with one pc on the library.

This system will make it easy for the students to borrow books so hopefully it will help them to read more!!!

Newsletters: Where you can read all the school newsletters, for example this newsletter is now online.

News: There will be an online news system for next year so anybody will be able to check relevant school news from any computer. The idea is that the students will be involved in this project and will be taking on the role of reporters.

Noticeboards: The idea of this part of the school website is that you can look the student's work in Art, English... etc and photographs from trips or sporting competitions. We think that this is a fantastic idea because they can show the world how good their school work is! This will be ready for 2007/2008 school year.

Contact: We have done a fantastic contact page powered by google maps. You have to check it.

School menu (left)

In this part of the website you can find different sections like:

Departments: You can find here a presentation from each department with all relevant information about the subjects such as projects, objects, results, etc

Parents: This is your section. It has lunch menus, school policies, school uniform information and one of the largest parts of our website - performance data. The school will give you a username and password to logon, and from here you will be able to check the performance data for your child with teacher's comments per subject, also all the assessments that your child has with grades. We think that this will be a very useful tool for you to follow your child's progress at school.

Staff: There is a list of all the teachers in the school along with their subjects. This section it will also be for the teachers to share information, check their calendar etc.

Pupils: The teachers will be able to place lessons and homework in this section for pupils to access in or out of school with a username and password. We hope this will be ready during the next school year.

We hope you find the website a useful resource, if you have any suggestions about what else we could include then please email us at admin.northaxholme@northlincs.gov.uk

I.T.Department

